

This is my submission for the inquiry titled "The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community."

I have responded to each point in turn and supplied several links to articles that would be worth your review and consideration.

No one can argue that illegal firearms is not a problem within Australia, but many will argue that responding to this by penalizing law abiding firearm owners with further measures that will have ZERO effect on those with illegal firearms is wholly wrong. Prohibition has never worked to reduce crime and never will.

The Government already spends millions of dollars per year on a registry that seems to have little function or purpose and on Police man hours completing random checks on firearm owners, cluns and dealers, and no doubt filling out reams of paperwork with regards to those checks.

Surely all those millions and Police man hours would be better spent elsewhere, like actually targetting criminals or making our borders more secure, than checking up on people who do the right thing (because let's face it, if they didn't then they wouldn't have a firearm, not legally anyway).

Anyway, here are my responses:

a) the estimated number, distribution and lethality of illegal guns, including both outlawed and stolen guns, in Australia; **Simply put, you will never know. You can try and find out but who is going to tell you? You will know about the stolen guns, but the rest? Good luck!**

b) the operation and consequences of the illicit firearms trade, including both outlawed and stolen guns within Australia; **See answer to A.**

c) the adequacy of current laws and resourcing to enable law enforcement authorities to respond to technological advances in gun technology, including firearms made from parts which have been imported separately or covertly to avoid detection, and firearms made with the use of 3D printers; **Current laws state that it is illegal to manufacture a firearm privately, so you have laws in place. Adding more laws will result in the same outcome except you will now have multiple laws covering the same thing.**

d) the extent to which the number and types of guns stolen each year in Australia increase the risk posed to the safety of police and the community, including the proportion of gun-related crime involving legal firearms which are illegally held; **I believe the number is very low. Maybe if firearm owners information wasn't seemingly freely available via an expensive, unsecure database, then the numbers stolen would be much lower.**

Also consider:

1) We have porous borders.

2) Firearms are registered by serial numbers to owners.

3) Firearms are randomly and routinely inspected by law enforcement.

4) Ballistics checks enable the ability to track firearms back to crime scenes.

5) No evidence exists to suggest licensed firearms owners provide the criminal underworld with firearms.

Maybe if the media was prevented from publishing ridiculous stories like this and actually telling people where the highest concentration of firearms is then that would help prevent thefts? Oh and where would they have got this information? If they can get it, you can bet anyone else can too!

<http://www.smh.com.au/victoria/one-gun-for-every-nine-people-in-victoria-20140630-zsr0f.html>

e) the effect banning semi-automatic handguns would have on the number of illegally held firearms in Australia; And here we have the point that this whole inquiry is all about. Let's not kid ourselves, another gun ban is wanted and being pushed for. You can't catch or control the criminals so you want to go after the people that do the right thing with the deluded idea that this will make a big impact on criminals when in fact all you are doing is punishing LAFO's for your own shortcomings in being able to deal with the ACTUAL issue at hand.

http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/working_paper_series/wp2008n17.pdf

f) stricter storage requirements and the use of electronic alarm systems for guns stored in homes; Just NO. If anything, it is my belief that we should be able to use more concealed/covert types of secure firearm storage. Items such as shelving, tables, desks, pictures have all been made into firearm storage items that are FAR LESS obvious than a bloody great cabinet that says "Here are my guns!". Besides, the bigger issue is how criminals are getting information on firearm owners in the first place. When we hear of firearm thefts it is reported that they are TARGETTED. You can only target firearm owners if you have their information, so where is the information coming from? With so many places that a firearm owner must record his/her details is it any wonder this information 'falls' into the wrong hands? It should be enough that Police have issued me a firearms license. Do they need to know what type of gun I have? NO. Do the Roads and Transport Authority need to know what car I drive? NO, they just need to know that I have the legal license and related knowledge to do so safely.

g) the extent to which there exist anomalies in federal, state and territory laws regarding the ownership, sale, storage and transit across state boundaries of legal firearms, and how these laws relate to one another; and Since firearm laws are State issues and not Federal then you will have these issues. It would be so much easier if you just scrapped the majority of the laws and made it much simpler. Like I said in point F, all you really need to know is that I have a firearms license thereby having the permission to own and use a firearm.

h) any related matters.

i) Could someone please state FOR THE RECORD, how they conclude that MORE LAWS are going to have ANY IMPACT on those people that DO NOT FOLLOW THE CURRENT ONES? Criminals DO NOT CARE if you add more laws and more controls. You think it will make a difference? It won't. If they can't steal or import them, they will make them.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/jeweller-angelos-koots-admits-to-making-submachine-guns-at-his-seven-hills-home-and-supplying-them-to-bikie-groups/story-fni0cx12-1226760983916?nk=2d3817d7530549554ae005a4efeda324>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1716034/gallery-lake-man-made-guns-at-home/?cs=305>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dROYBKyseac>

ii) Banning any type of firearm means that in the end, only the criminals will have those types of firearms.

iii) Could someone also please tell me why, when there are so many much bigger problems in society, for example child abuse, that a relatively minor issue (firearms) gets so much focus?

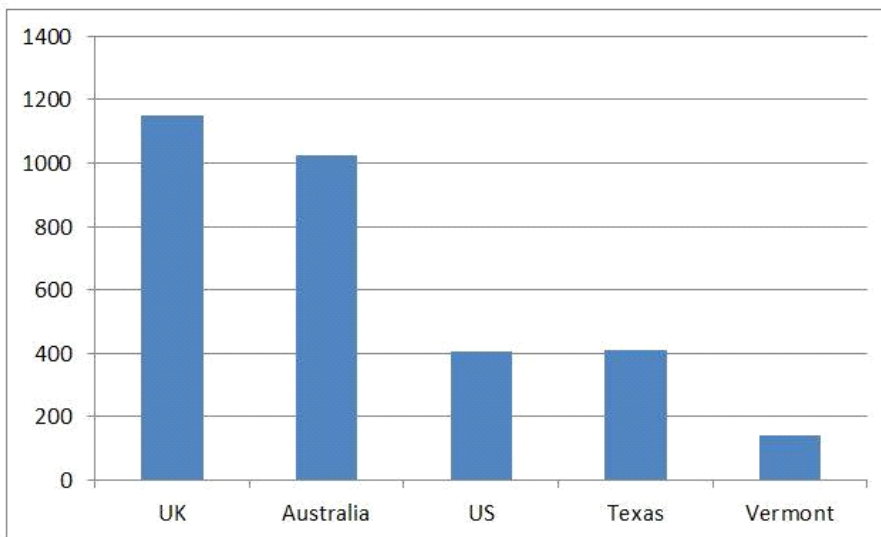
iv) We are well behind Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, France, Canada, Austria, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, Greece, Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic in terms of gun ownership. Yet our crime levels far exceed most of these countries.

v) Read this >

<http://aussieguns.blogspot.com.au/2013/08/following-path-of-america.html?showComment=1400975990778#c6414366548021748336>

vi) A few images to consider (below)

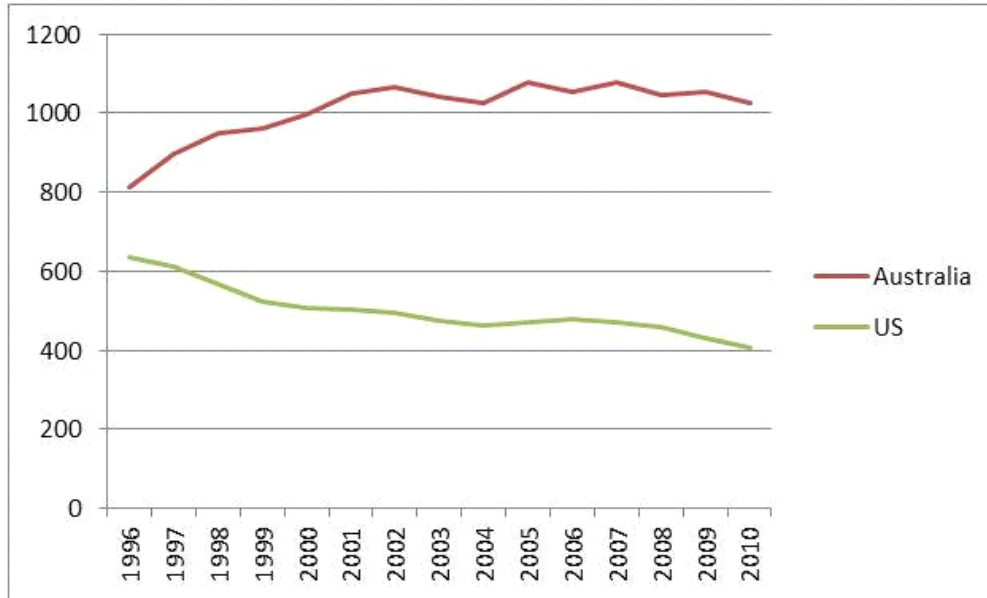
Violent Crime Rates per 100,000



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of National Statistics and Australian Institute of Criminology

1. Violent Crime is defined as Murder/Manslaughter, Rape, Assault and Robbery.
 2. Vermont has virtually no gun laws and allows for the use of firearms in the home and public for personal protection.
 3. Texas has more liberal gun laws than Australia, but more stringent than Vermont.
 4. UK gun laws are stricter than Australian gun laws.
-

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000, Australia and the US



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation and Australian Institute of Criminology
 1. Violent Crime is defined as Murder/Manslaughter, Rape, Assault and Robbery

Mechanism of death	Accidental death no.	Intentional self-harm(c) no.	Assault no.	Undetermined intent no.	Other intent(d) no.	Total no.
Poisonings (X40-X90, X60-X69, X85-X90, Y10-Y19)	987	518	2	157	0	1 664
Hanging (W75-W84, X70, X91, Y20)	226	1 273	7	89	0	1 595
Drowning and submersion (W65-W74, X71, X92, Y21)	169	49	0	26	0	244
Firearms (W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24)	8	136	24	17	0	184
Contact with sharp object (W25-W29, X78, X99, Y28)	7	62	75	17	0	161
Falls (W00-W19, X80, Y01, Y30)	1 845	104	0	16	0	1 965
Other(e)	2 656	132	82	149	291	3 310
Total	5 898	2 273	190	471	291	9 123

Are The Greens NSW Confused in Regard to the Efficacy of Banning and Controlling Inanimate Objects?

Dr John Kaye, The Greens NSW MLC (in regard to alcohol):

“Prohibition has never worked and least of all with young people.”

“While there are very good reasons to be concerned about any binge drinking amongst young people, nothing would be gained by a ban.”

“The problem would only be driven underground where it would be much harder to address.”

<http://johnkaye.org.au/prohibition-fails-every-time-especially-for-young-people/>

Vs

David Shoebridge, The Greens NSW MLC (in regard to firearms):

“As the next step in serious gun reform in NSW, The Greens are proposing a restriction on the number of weapons that registered gun owners can legally possess.”

“Without exceptional reasons, shooters should not be able to own more than three firearms, whereas currently there is no limit.”

“Reducing the number of private arsenals out will reduce the chance of these firearms falling into the wrong hands.”

<http://davidshoebridge.org.au/2012/02/13/ammunition-restriction-a-good-first-step-in-nsw-gun-law-reform/>

“Flaws in the government’s legislation seriously undermine any restrictions on the sale of ammunition. There needs to be limits placed on the amount of ammunition that can be purchased at any one time.”

“If this legislation is passed unamended, gun owners would still be able to buy as much ammunition as they want, rendering restrictions on the sale of ammunition largely toothless”

<http://davidshoebridge.org.au/2012/03/13/stronger-nsw-gun-laws-in-the-firing-line/>
